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Dr. Sherry

Foundations Of Writing

**What An Education Means to Me**

I believe that an education or being educated has many different meanings. To me there is a difference between being educated and having knowledge. I think that a traditional education is being taught all of the basic material that students in schools get as opposed to knowledge gained from life experiences or examples set by others. Personally, I believe that a person can be wise or knowledgeable without having any formal education due to my experience with people who aren’t traditionally “educated”. From what I have experienced, I strongly believe that knowledge and determination are just as important as an education and a college education is just another way for someone to progress in their field.

**Past:**

For my past I chose my mother because she has always been an influential figure and someone I have always tried to model my work ethic after. When I was younger she would always wake me up and make sure I was getting to school on time and that my grades were always the best I could get.

It’s 6:45 on a dark early winter morning and my mother and I are making our way towards the bus stop where she takes me every morning to make my morning commute to school easier.[[1]](#footnote-0) I would have to take multiple buses to school on time and my mom wanted to make it easier for me and wanted me to get to school on time everyday. This morning was freezing and I was particularly frustrated because I hated having to travel so far to get to school as it took me nearly an hour to get there every day and sometimes longer to get back. My mother had told me that everything was in my best interest and that she wanted the best for me. Whenever I felt that things were getting to be too much on me my mom always told me, “You’ll thank me later when you don’t have to work as hard for a dollar as I do”[[2]](#footnote-1). This quote has always stood out to me because although she never had much of a chance to attend a university she has always wanted me to go to college and graduate which shows that she although she doesn’t have the highest form of education she was still able to take care of her family and reach any goal she set for her self with one being to have her children go to college.

**Present:**

For my present I chose a moment where I had to apply the life lessons I gained from my mom to accomplish a goal when I thought my back was against the wall. In my first semester at Bloomsburg I was really struggling with the transition from high school to college and I was able to reflect on times when my mom would help me put forth my best effort. Last semester my grades were not what they were in high school and I was not able to manage the workload between my classes and my scholarship obligations which was hurting my GPA. When I found that my GPA going to be low if my grades stayed the same I used the examples of persistence and determination I learned from watching my mother when I took initiative to change my study habits and improve my work ethic. I was able to push through and raise my grades because of the motivation I had to not disappoint my family and waste the opportunity I was given.

**Future:**

For my future I chose to focus on the life lessons my mother passed down to me that I will pass down to my children. It’s the year 2030 and I now find myself in the same scenario I was in nearly 20 years earlier with my mom this time I am with my son and he is suffering from the same frustration with school I had. I understand where he is coming from and now am experienced enough to have been on both sides as the parent and the child and I pass down the same words of encouragement my mom passed down to me and tell him I do everything so he could be even more successful than I became and to stay determined in everything he does[[3]](#footnote-2). This shows the link between each of my moments because they all show the heavy influence my mom played in my life and that I used the knowledge and character traits she displayed to pass down to a further generation because having character and determination is the basis for becoming successful.

To me, in some cases, knowledge is more important than a traditional education because from what I have experienced, character traits are cherished more than education although the material that students in schools get are ways to prepare people for different situations and getting a college degree helps you stand out more. In closing, I believe that education and knowledge go hand-in-hand because gaining knowledge is a way of being educated and without either you are not likely to be very successful.

1. Action [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Dialogue [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Dialogue [↑](#footnote-ref-2)